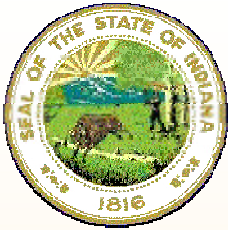


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and committee hearing dates,
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Dear Friends:

The forces of mother nature definitely left its mark on 2005. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita proved this a few months ago when they brought about unimaginable destruction and loss of life throughout the Gulf Coast. But in the face of these catastrophic storms, it was very uplifting to hear about the many acts of kindness and generosity of so many Americans.

I was very proud of how quickly our state took action to provide assistance. Within days of Hurricane Katrina, Operation Hoosier Relief, Indiana's disaster-assistance team, deployed National Guardsmen, Natural Resource Conservation Officers, law enforcement teams, medical personnel and other volunteers to aid in recovery efforts.

The Senate will convene January 9th for the short session of this General Assembly which must conclude business by March 14th. Many issues will come before us including my top priority—the reduction of property taxes. There will also be legislation introduced to protect our homes by limiting the state's power to take our property by use of eminent domain. I served on a summer study committee which recommended this legislation and I believe it will pass.

Senate Democrats will continue to push for initiatives to provide additional funding for education. Many schools were shortchanged under the current state budget and are struggling to meet the needs of students and teachers. We will also be reviewing proposals dealing with energy cost assistance and transportation funding.

I hope you will take time to respond to my '06 legislative survey located inside this newsletter. Having your input on these important issues will help me when making decisions on the many proposals that will be considered.

It is a pleasure to serve the citizens of Senate District 1. I hope you will take time to contact me by mail, phone or email to express your views on pending legislation or if I can provide assistance to you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year,

Frank Mrvan

Mrvan's legislative agenda for '06

I will be introducing legislation this session to allow the Lake County Council to adopt an ordinance to provide a 2% circuit breaker for taxes payable in 2006. We were successful in passing this initiative last year, but the County Council neglected to adopt the necessary ordinance to authorize the circuit breaker.

Because economic conditions have changed in Lake County and certain industries should be required to pay their fair share of taxes, I will introduce a proposal that would adjust the annual depreciation percentages for personal property tax valuation of special integrated steel mill and oil refinery/petrochemical equipment.

I will introduce a proposal that will authorize counties, cities and towns to adopt local taxes on sales, gasoline, alcoholic beverages, tobacco and fireworks that would lower property taxes exclusively.

The "Jessica Lundsford" law in Florida is said to be the toughest child molestation law in the nation. I will be proposing legislation that would strengthen Indiana law that calls for an in-

creased penalties for lewd and lascivious molestation of a child. The bill would also require stronger registration and reporting requirements.

Similar to SB 559 which I authored last year, I will propose a bill which would require that an employer may not discriminate against an employee on the basis of sex, race or national origin by paying a wage less than to an employee of another sex, race or national origin for work in an equivalent job.

I will be proposing legislation that would create oversight of Public Monies, i.e. taxes, grants, gaming revenue. Such monies would fall under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Accounts, the State Inspector General, the State Ethics Commission and the Public Open Sunshine Laws. The purpose is to make civic groups, foundations, commissions and public agencies as urban enterprise groups fiscally responsible.

A few of my other proposals include issues on charter schools, urban sprawl, oversight of unpaid restitution orders and election fraud.

Privatization

Should the state be moving in this direction?

Change was expected upon the arrival of the new administration in January, 2005. In some cases, change may be needed, but a trend has emerged that is disturbing for many Hoosiers. The favored tool now being utilized by this administration is that of privatization.

Several areas of state government have already been handed over to private companies including the food service for all state prisons and the operation of the New Castle correctional facility. State hospitals, which care for some of our most vulnerable Hoosiers, have also been slotted for privatization as well as Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamp and Medicaid programs.

This administration is also exploring whether to allow logging by private businesses in our state forests, operate the inns at our state parks and even take control of the I-80/90 Toll Road.

Privatization raises many concerns. Out-of-state companies are awarded huge state contracts, but despite the fact that these contracts are paid for by our tax dollars there is virtually no public oversight of their performance. These businesses are not required to follow the same open record laws as state agencies.

When state government privatizes certain functions, the quality and eligibility of those that need services can be diminished. The public has no idea how the programs are operating, the number of people who are getting services or the amount of compensation that company executives are receiving in salaries and benefits. It is hard to see how the public can be assured that its tax dollars are being used wisely unless there is total accountability. In addition, we know that privatizing such things as welfare has failed in other states including Wisconsin and Colorado.

Instead of trying to fix problems from within state agencies, the governor has instead chosen to take risks through privatization. Countless state employees may lose their jobs or be forced to take positions with new private contractors at lower wages with fewer or no benefits.

This is a serious issue that could potentially have a major impact on the lives of thousands of Hoosiers. With the governor's propensity to lean toward privatization, it is likely that legislation will be considered that will call for a review of any plans to turn over control of state services to private vendors.

"Out-of-state companies are awarded huge state contracts, but despite the fact that these contracts are paid for by our tax dollars there is virtually no public oversight of their performance."



You may also complete this survey on-line at www.in.gov/S1

Feel free to have another family member respond to questions in column #2.

Respondent
#1

Respondent
#2

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Do you support further expansion of full-day kindergarten to provide all children with the opportunity to get a good start on their education? | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you support the implementation of new local sales and/or income taxes if this would reduce property taxes? | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do you support the awarding of contracts to allow out-of-state companies to operate certain state government services and programs? | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Should the State of Indiana support sales tax increment financing for Cabelas retail store? | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Should legislation be approved to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a special drivers license? | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Do you support legislation that would require an appropriate waiting period and background check for all legal gun purchases? | 6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Do you support legislation to legalize electronic gaming machines, i.e. cherry masters and pull tabs? | 7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Do you support an increase in the current \$5.15 per hour minimum wage? | 8. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Do you support the state giving local units of government the option to consolidate various government functions at their own discretion? | 9. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. What do you believe are the most pressing issues facing the State of Indiana?
(Please rank 1 through 6 with 1 being the most important.) | 10. _____ | 10. _____ |
| Education | _____ | _____ |
| Environmental protection | _____ | _____ |
| Property tax relief | _____ | _____ |
| Health care access and affordability | _____ | _____ |
| Job creation and retention | _____ | _____ |
| Local transportation | _____ | _____ |

Additional Comments: _____

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your opinions are very important to me!



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Connecting with you

Personal contact with constituents has a direct impact on the legislation we consider and what ultimately becomes law. In ongoing efforts to connect more efficiently, for those of you who have email access, I will be offering periodic email updates on issues facing the Indiana General Assembly. If you would like to receive these updates, please provide your email address below.

My email address is: (please print clearly)

Or subscribe online now at www.IN.gov/s1

If address is different than above, please print
corrections clearly or affix mailing label here.

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Mrvan '06 Legislative Survey Response

Please tape or staple here. Thank you.